

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8809

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN)

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES

1. CONSUL MACFARLANE IN KIGOMA RECEIVED LETTER THIS MORNING, JULY 1, FROM STEVEN SMITH SAYING HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH, AND STATING THAT PRP ASKING OUR SIDE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SECURE RELEASE OF PRISONERS HELD BY TANZANIA, AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THIS IS REMAINING CONDITION TO BE MET BEFORE HIS RELEASE. SMITH ADDS THAT PRP ALSO ASKING FOR LARGE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN CONCERNING EVENTS TO DATE.

2. MESSAGE DELIVERED ACROSS LAKE BY MESSENGERS WHO ARE AWAITING REPLY TO TAKE BACK.

3. WE SENDING TWO MESSAGES BACK.

4. FIRST, FROM MACFARLANE TO SMITH, MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A. ACCORDING TANGOV SOURCES (BRYCESON), NO ADDITIONAL PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED UNTIL SMITH RETURNED SAFELY;

B. TANGOV HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLINGNESS RELEASE PRISONERS BY RETURNING SALEH KILENGA;

C. PARENTS COMPLYING FAITHFULLY WITH AGREEMENT AND THEY EXPECT PRP TO DO SO BY RETURNING SMITH ON WEDNESDAY;

D. RELEASED STUDENTS NOT WILLING GIVE ANY FURTHER PUBLICITY TO PRP UNTIL AFTER SMITH RETURNS.

5. SECOND LETTER IS FROM STANFORD PROFESSOR HAMBURG TO PRP AND IS ACCCOMPANIED BY FRENCH TANSLATION. IT MAKES POINT THAT PARENTS MEETING THEIR OBLIGATIONS FULLY, AND WILLING USE MAXIMUM INFLUENCE WITH TANGOV FOR RELEASE OF PRP PRISONERS AFTER SMITH RETURNED. FURTHER, ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN REFLECTING CREDIT ON PRP, AND DELAY IN RELEASE WOULD INTERFERE WITH IT. WE RELY ON PRP AS QTE HONORABLE MEN UNQTE TO FULFILL THEIR SIDE OF BARGAIN BY RELEASING SMITH WITHIN TIME PERIOD PROMISED IN MEETING WITH PRP JUNE 28.

6. SINCE UNLIKELY THAT MESSENGERS CAN RETURN ANSWERS TO PRP BEFORE MORNING OF JULY 2, AND PRESUMABLY THERE WILL BE CERTAIN PERIOD OF CONSIDERATION BY PRP, IT SEEMS TO US PROBABLE THAT RELEASE OF SMITH CANNOT BE EFFECTED BEFORE EARLY MORNING JULY 3 AT EARLIEST.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE ALWAYS FEARED THERE MIGHT BE LAST-MINUTE DESIRE SQUEEZE MORE FROM BARGAIN THAN THAT ORIGINALLY AGREED. SEEMS TO US WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ASSUME UNYIELDING POSTURE ON THESE ALTERED DEMANDS. WE ARE SO COUNSELING PARENTS. PRP STILL DESIRES ACHIEVE FAVORABLE IMAGE. WE'VE GOT TO BE FIRM AND INSIST ON SMITH'S RELEASE, WITH NO FURTHER CONDITIONS.

CARTER

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